THE

Medical and Agricultural Regiſter.

VOL. I.] *NOVEMBER*, 1806. [No. 11.

MEDICAL.

Effects of Cold Water as a Remedy in Fever and other Diſeaſes.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

A PHYSICIAN, in the exerciſe of his profeſſion, oftentimes finds it impoſſible to render himſelf uſeful to the full extent of his knowledge and ſkill, by reaſon of the *prejudices* of his patient, or of his patient's friends. One ſays—"Doctor, don't give me *opium*." Another ſays—"Don't give me *mercury*." And why is it that we never hear a patient ſay—Doctor, don't give me RUM. Is it becauſe fewer of the human race have been deſtroyed by the latter than by the former? ſurely no. That opium and mercury (or preparations from the latter) taken in unnatural quantities, may, in certain caſes, have been productive of evil, is not denied. The ſame of *rum* we have the moſt abundant and melancholy proofs every day. People, however, do not break friendſhip with it, nor are they alarmed at the uſe of it. Theſe are all, at times, very uſeful and neceſſary in the hands of thoſe who have ſkill to adviſe, and judgment to direct to the proper adminiſtration of them.

Becauſe *fire-arms* have been uſed in killing people, the "careful Mother," ſo we have read at ſchool, was panic ſtruck when "Billy" began to meddle with the gun, although he informed her there was "no lock on it." This good old lady was too ignorant of the conſtruction and operations of this inſtrument to know but that under every poſſible circumſtance and in all ſituations, it was a thing equally terrific and dangerous. It is the ſame with many intentionally well meaning people, as it reſpects ſome certain mode of practice or a particular medicine. Becauſe that ſome one told another one

that ſuch an one, was injured by it ; or, that a certain ſomebody, under mental derangement, or great depreſſion of ſpirits, *took a bottle full of it*, and died ; and knowing nothing rationally of its nature and operations, otherwiſe than that taken in ſuch *unnatural* quantities it may kill people, therefore, they are oppoſed to the adminiſtration of it, even in thoſe forms and in ſuch caſes as daily experience proves it to be moſt *ſalutary* and *uſeful*. In this way, the phyſician, many times, is oppoſed, thwarted and perplexed, by the pitiful ignorance of thoſe with whom he has to do.

What, therefore, Dr. Parkinſon obſerves, in his "*Medical Admonitions*," is moſt ſtrictly true ; that "Medical men wiſh not for ignorance, either in their patient or his friends ; they know that whilſt exerciſing the duties of their profeſſion, the knowledge of the *firſt principles* of medical ſcience will always yield them the ſtrongeſt aid. * * * *. The friends of the ſick, poſſeſſed of this knowledge, and conſequently apprized of the principles on which the phyſician proceeds to obtain a cure, can then more powerfully aid his endeavors ; nor is this all : they alſo gain a knowledge of the principles on which they ought to proceed for the preſervation of their own health."

To diffuſe this knowledge of the firſt principles of medical ſcience is one object of this publication ; it is more eſpecially ſo at the preſent time, in the notice we now propoſe to take of the "Medical Reports" of Dr. CURRIE,

"*On the effects of Water, cold and warm, as a remedy in Fever and other Diſorders.*"

The ſubject was introduced in the laſt No. of the Regiſter, through the favor of a communication from Dr. COFFIN, in which the true theory of cold bathing and water-drinking was briefly illuſtrated ; and thoſe who wiſhed to be further informed on theſe ſubjects, were referred to the "Medical Reports." But as theſe are ſubjects of ſuch great importance, in ſome underſtanding of which, every perſon is in a meaſure intereſted ; and as it is probable this work,* comparatively ſpeaking, will fall into the hands of but very few, excepting medical men, therefore, it has been thought proper to take ſome further notice of it here. There is ſtill another conſideration urging to this duty ; which, however, is implied in the obſervations before, and which is, that the practice recommended by Dr. CURRIE is ſo much in oppoſition to the notions and preconceived opinions of mankind, generally, that were a phy-

* There is a ſmall and cheap abridgment of this work, printed by Mr EDES, of *Auguſta*, well ſuited for the uſe of families.

ſician, under proper circumſtances, to recommend it, ſo long as people are unacquainted with *facts* and the principles which regulate it, he would be likely to meet with the moſt extreme oppoſition. What, for inſtance, would people, in many places ſay, were a phyſician to take his patient, burning with fever, out of bed, ſtrip him naked, and pour over him *four or five gallons of cold water?* Yet this has actually been done and with what ſucceſs the "Medical Reports" inform us.

"Dr. WRIGHT, while on a voyage from Jamaica in 1777, being attacked with fever, on the third day of it, ordered three buckets of ſalt water to be thrown over him, which gave him *inſtant* relief; and this being repeated on the two following days, removed every ſymptom of diſeaſe. Another paſſenger, whoſe attack from fever had began on Auguſt 9, copied the example and was reſtored to health. A ſeaman, who originally communicated the fever to Dr. WRIGHT, refuſing proper aſſiſtance, died.

"In December, 1787, Dr. CURRIE, in ſeven caſes of contageous fever,* threw cold water from a bucket upon the body of each patient; and the whole recovered. An eighth patient died, with whom the practice was omitted. In 153 caſes of which the Doctor kept a regiſter, *the cure was chiefly entruſted to this remedy.*

"The 30th regiment of Britiſh infantry, in particular, while quartered at Liverpool in 1792, afforded him an opportunity of trying this application with ſome preciſion. * * * *. The number infected in the whole was 58, of whom 26 had the diſeaſe in this way *brought ſuddenly to a cloſe;* but in the remaining 32 it ran its courſe. It was fatal, however, only to two, who had been weakened by viſiting the Weſt-Indies and by being bled, and who beſides *had not received the cold aſperſion*, not having been viſited by Dr. CURRIE till the 12th or 14th day of the diſeaſe."†

There are, however, certain preciſe and definite rules of the utmoſt importance to be noticed, which ever ought to govern and regulate this practice.

"The ſafeſt and moſt advantageous time for uſing the aſperſion or affuſion‡ of cold water, is when the exacerbation [fever fit] is at its height, or immediately after its declination

* It is what in popular language is called the *Nervous Fever*, and where particular ſymptoms prevail, the *Putrid Fever*, being the common fever of England, of which the Doctor is here ſpeaking.

† Theſe quotations are from the *Abridgment*, noticed in a preceding note.

‡ By *aſperſion* or *affuſion* the author means the pouring of water upon a patient, as for example, from a bucket.

is begun. And this has led me almoſt always to direct it to be employed from ſix to nine in the evening; but it may be ſafely uſed at any time of the day, *when there is no ſenſe of chillineſs preſent, when the heat of the ſurface is ſteadily above what is natural, and when there is no general or profuſe ſenſible perſpiration.*—Theſe particulars, obſerves the Doctor, are of the utmoſt importance.

"If the affuſion of cold water on the ſurface of the body be uſed during the cold ſtage of the paroxyſm of fever [in popular language, when the fever fit is off] the reſpiration is nearly ſuſpended; the pulſe become fluttering, feeble, and of incalculable frequency; the ſurface and extremities become doubly cold and ſhrivelled, and the patient ſeems to ſtruggle with the pangs of inſtant diſſolution. * * *. This remedy, therefore, ſhould never be uſed when any conſiderable ſenſe of chillineſs is preſent.

2. "Neither ought it to be uſed, when the heat, meaſured by the thermometer, is leſs than, or only equal to the natural heat.

3. "It is alſo neceſſary to abſtain from the uſe of this remedy when the body is under profuſe ſenſible perſpiration. * * * *. After the ſweating has continued ſome time and flowed freely, eſpecially if the body has remained at reſt, either the affuſion or immerſion is attended with danger, even though the heat of the body, at the moment of uſing it, be greater than natural."

The cold aſperſion, Dr. CURRIE further obſerves, "cannot be employed too ſoon after the firſt attack, provided the original chill is over, and the hot ſtage is fairly eſtabliſhed."

On the firſt and ſecond days of fever, the diſeaſe often inſtantly vaniſhes with one aſperſion, and ſometimes on the third, but on the fourth day this is rare. Each aſperſion, however, inſtantly removes the ſymptoms, and a few repetitions of it, on the ſucceſſive returns of the paroxyſm, in two or three days happily terminate the diſeaſe, with none or trifling aid from medicine.

After each aſperſion, the body being haſtily dried with towels, the patient is put to bed, when a gentle diaphoreſis or ſweat breaking out, he uſually falls into a calm and quiet ſleep.

"The cold affuſion generally reduces the heat from 2 to 6 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, and the pulſe ſinks by it from 2 to above 20 beats in the minute.

"After a number of days in the progreſs of fever, the cold affuſion is to give place to the tepid, [warm] and the tepid affuſion in various caſes is to give way after a time to moiſtening and waſhing the body."

"Though the patients were often ſtartled at the firſt propoſal of daſhing the cold water over them, yet, after one trial, there was ſeldom any difficulty in perſuading them to have it repeated. The effects were in general highly grateful and refreſhing to their ſenſations. * * * *. At firſt I uſed freſh water; afterwards freſh water mixed with vinegar; and laſtly, a ſaturated ſolution of ſea-ſalt in water.

"When the affuſion of water, cold or tepid, is not employed in fever, benefit may be derived, *though in an inferior degree*, by ſponging or wetting the body with cold or warm vinegar or water."

Such are ſome of the leading doctrines contained in the "Medical Reports." Phyſicians will not content themſelves with this brief ſketch of the work; they will rather poſſeſs the volumes* themſelves. This ſketch, however, may ſerve the purpoſe for which it was intended; which, as we apprehend, having been ſufficiently illuſtrated by ſome previous obſervations, is already well underſtood.

Here then is a remedy, which, judiciouſly adminiſtered, promiſes to be greatly ſucceſsful in a diſeaſe which forms one of the wideſt outlets to human life; ever acceſſible and near at hand; a remedy, which Heaven, in its benevolent purpoſes, has ſcattered with a rich profuſion over the whole earth. It runs down from our mountains; it flows in our vallies; with it our rivers are filled, and the ſeas are full.

The uſe of cold water as a bath, or ſprinking, or wetting the body with cold water, has been occaſionally practiſed as a remedy in fever, both in ancient and modern times. Of this we have an inſtance in the "*bilious malignant fever*," which prevailed in the country adjacent to Dartmouth College, in the ſummer of 1798, an account of which, by Dr. LYMAN SPALDING, will be found in the 3d vol. of the *Medical Repoſitory*, from which the following extract is taken.

"The moſt dependence was placed on the *cold bath*, when the fit was on. This infallibly gave inſtant and aſtoniſhing relief. * * * *. The cold bath was generally applied, by laying the patient naked upon a thick blanket, then ſprinkling him and the blanket with the coldeſt water; the wetted blanket was wrapped round him, and ſuffered to remain till it became warm, when it was thrown off and ſprinkled a ſecond time, thus reducing the heat to the ſtandard of health. The cold bath ſerved only till the criſis of the fever; afterwards it was as diſtreſſing and painful as heretofore it was invigorating and pleaſant. Many patients have been injured by a continuation of the bath after the criſis."

* Two volumes, 8vo. 3d Edition, 1805.

But the affuſion or pouring on of cold water, according to Dr. CURRIE, is a preferable way. His words are "*the application ſhould be ſudden and momentary.*" But what we have particularly to admire in the *Medical Reports* is the conſpicuous light reflected on a ſubject, which before was perplexed with contradictions and many contending facts. But the laws "*by which the affuſion of cold water ought to be regulated*" being now underſtood, we readily ſee in what way theſe difficulties are to be reconciled. We now underſtand that the ſame remedy in the ſame diſeaſe, but applied at *different ſeaſons* of the diſeaſe, ſhall under theſe different circumſtances, prove to one "*a ſavour of life,*" and to another, "*a ſavour of death.*" But theſe laws, ſo ſays the Author, "having now been aſcertained by ample experience, practitioners will, I truſt, find themſelves directed in ſafety in the future uſe of this powerful remedy."

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

Management of the Sick.

THERE is always much ſcope for the exerciſe of diſcretion in the management of ſick people. This is better underſtood and practiſed in the larger towns than in the country; it is however not enough attended to any where.

I have been frequently embarraſſed when ſeated by my patient, particularly if a female, to obſerve half a dozen impertinently curious ſpectators, who took no intereſt in the welfare of the ſick, but were merely collecting materials for their own empirical practice, or goſſiping tattle, or were actuated by ſome other (for ſuch there are) more cenſurable motive.

A mother, an aunt, or ſiſter, or ſome attendant, capable of anſwering inquiries and of receiving directions, and eſpecially capable of keeping ſilence when ſhe has nothing to ſay, ſhould be preſent, and this is enough. More than once have I witneſſed a ſick chamber ſurrounded with wet eyes and gloomy faces, all directed to the ſick man, juſt as he was waking from the frightful ſleep of a feveriſh ſtate.

The expreſſion of this folly could be nothing leſs, at leaſt to his timid imagination, than a perſuaſion in their minds, that he was about to leave the world. Theſe intruders ſhould be as carefully barred from the houſe of ſickneſs, as ſhould the wild religioniſt.

It is poſſible that ſome individuals of both theſe claſſes may *mean* well; but if ſo, they are to be thanked for the intention only, becauſe they have not the power of doing good. The one endangers the health of the body, the other the ſanity of

the mind. The former character is the reverſe of that of an enlightened ſympathetic friend, whoſe head knows how to execute the dictates of his heart; the latter is the oppoſite of an humane, ſenſible divine, who knows how to adminiſter comfort and inſpire hope, as well as to convey inſtruction, and enjoin obedience to the precepts of a ſublime and rational religion. G.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

DR. ADAMS,

HAVING accidentally met with the *London* Monthly Magazine of September laſt, I was much pleaſed with the obſervations accompanying the "Report of Diſeaſes;" ſo much ſo, that I have made the following *extract*, and encloſe it to you, in hopes that you will think it worth a place in your uſeful Regiſter. HUMANITY.

"The *morbi infantiles* [diſeaſes of children] appear particularly prominent in the above liſt. Indeed in every former catalogue which has been prefixed to theſe reports, the diſorders of children have conſtituted a large and very diſproportional ſhare.

It has been eſtimated that one-fourth of the human race are arreſted in their evaneſcent career of life, before the Sun which had witneſſed their birth, has completed one of its annual revolutions. This ſurely is not an original and invincible decree of nature: with more propriety is it to be attributed to the artificial management and medical mal-treatment of children in the incipient ſtage of their being. Theſe little victims awaken our compaſſion, perhaps the more, becauſe they are not themſelves conſcious how unneceſſary are the pains which they are made to ſuffer, and how often, by the direction of ignorance or folly, they are nurſed and phyſicked out of exiſtence.

The thread upon which infantile life depends, is of ſo fine and delicate a texture, that, unleſs it be with the utmoſt tenderneſs and caution, one could not touch it without endangering its continuity.

The adminiſtration of medicine in the way that, in ſuch caſes, it is too generally applied, appears inconſiſtent with the moſt obvious and obtruſive ſuggeſtions of common ſenſe, as well as with the precepts of an undebauched philoſophy. The conſtantly *meddling* with a watch, the maker of it will tell you, cannot fail to injure its ſtructure, and ſpoil the healthy regularity of its movements; and the ſame obſervation is applicable to the human machine, which in a child is equally fragile and

complicated, at the ſame time it is vaſtly ſuperior in the dignity of its deſtiny, and in the incalculable importance of its organization. It often happens, that a being is ſcarcely born, before he is *doſed* to death. The only *draughts* which an infant requires, are thoſe which he ingurgitates from the boſom of his mother, or inhales from the atmoſphere around him.

Keep him uniformly and accurately clean, and allow him a ſufficient quantity of air, nouriſhment, and exerciſe, and the inſtances would be rare indeed, which preſented any uſe for the nauſeous and noxious intruſion of doctors and of drugs.

We ought to feel a painful degree of timidity and ſcepticiſm with regard to the infantile ſubjects of our care; but diſeaſe, when it attacks perſons of an adult age and vigorous habit, requires a more than ordinary degree of energy and deciſion."

AGRICULTURAL.

An Account of Improvements practiſed in Lunenburg on Meadow Lands: Communicated in a letter by the Rev. T. FLINT, dated Lunenburg, Nov. 10, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

IN compliance with your requeſt, I ſend you a ſketch of the mode of cultivating meadows, now in operation, and in progreſs in this town.

The meadow, or ſection, is firſt ditched, ſo as entirely to drain it, and to throw the fields into ſquare, or oblong figures, marked off by ditches. Then with a hoe, conſtructed for the purpoſe, and ſharpened to a keen edge, beginning in a line with the ditch, the whole ſurface to the depth of two, or three inches is cut off in winrows equal in width to the length of the hoe. The turf thus cut off is left to dry; and when dried, is burned, either in winrows or heaps, as is moſt convenient. The whole field is then entirely free from ſward, covered with a coating of peat-aſhes, and as level as a garden. The aſhes are ſpread evenly with a rake, or bruſh-harrow, and the field is then fitted for the reception of the ſeed, which is covered in the uſual method. Winter rye has generally been the crop, though winter wheat, oats and corn have been ſucceſsfully cultivated in this way. The meadow, after one crop, is laid down with herds-graſs, which catches and thrives ſurpriſingly. It is preſumed, that the action of fire in burning the turf, penetrates to a conſiderable depth, and

cauſes a ſolution of the adheſive, and clayey texture of the meadow earth, and contributes with the aſhes to produce the luxuriance of vegetation, which ſucceeds this mode of cultivation.

The man who firſt introduced it, had a conſiderable tract of deep, boggy meadow, covered with a coat of white moſs, impervious to the ſun-beams, and which afforded a ſafe retreat for the water-adder. It yielded a tall courſe kind of haſſock-graſs, the ſpires of triangular ſhape, and with edges which cut the hand if drawn rapidly through it. It was a fodder which barely ſubſiſted young cattle, and was often dragged from the meadow, after being fiſhed out of the water, upon a ſled. In a very dry autumn, fire was accidentally communicated to the meadow, and continued to ſpread until the ſurface of an acre and an half was burned off to the depth of nearly three inches. For the ſake of experiment only, and with a view to obtain fodder, he threw in twenty quarts of winter rye ; the produce was twenty-eight buſhels. He then commenced the mode of cultivation in queſtion, with uniform and equal ſucceſs. It is now practiſed upon all kinds of meadow-land, and this autumn preſented us with a view of columns of ſmoke aſcending from the low lands on every ſide, reſembling the burning of a new country.

In the meadows which I viſited the paſt ſummer, the rye was the thickeſt and talleſt I had ever ſeen, and yielded, it is ſaid, about thirty buſhels to the acre. The graſs upon meadows of laſt year's cultivation was proportionably luxuriant and heavy ; and they are now eſtimated our moſt productive lands.

In the firſt ſtages of ſpring, the uniform and vivid verdure of the rye on theſe level bottoms, only interrupted by the black outline of the ditches, contraſted with the faded and ſickly hue of the ſurrounding high-lands, preſents a view, indeſcribably beautiful and refreſhing. Imagination heightens the contraſt ; theſe fields now as "the garden of the Lord," were lately tangled with uſeleſs vegetation, affording retreats for lizards, the water-ſerpent, and every unclean beaſt.

The whole proceſs of cutting off the ſurface, and burning it, is perfectly ſimple ; and the expenſe it is ſaid, but little more than that of breaking up new ſward. Should it gain ſufficient ſtrength by general adoption and patronage, to drain and fertilize the vaſt tracts of ſterile meadow, from which now exhale peſtilential vapors, ſo prolific in producing the moſt deadly epidemics, it will not only increaſe the plenty, but ameliorate the atmoſphere, and contribute to the healthfulneſs of our country.

I am, ſir, your friend and humble ſervant,

Dr. D. Adams. T. FLINT.

Remarks.—The Gentleman will accept our thanks for the foregoing very obliging communication. The ſubject is very important to farmers, at preſent not well underſtood, and who therefore muſt be exceedingly intereſted in knowing every proceſs, with the ſucceſs attending it, which in different places may be adopted for the improvement of this deſcription of lands. Our *meadows*, undoubtedly, are our richeſt and moſt valuable ſoils, capable of being rendered the moſt productive, and, at the ſame time, have been the moſt neglected of any deſcription of lands in our country. Of late, however, the ſubject ſeems to have excited more attention. In *Groton* and *Littleton*, particularly, improvements are making of this nature. We ſhould be much obliged to any of our friends in thoſe places for an account of the proceſs purſued by them for the improvement of their meadow-lands, which, we believe, differs materially from the one adopted in Lunenburg (by the Engliſh huſbandmen called "*paring and burning.*") In doing this they would not only confer on us a favor, but on the community a public benefit; as the progreſs and ſucceſs of labors of this nature will very much depend on knowing what has been done already, how it has been done, at what expenſe, under what circumſtances, and with what ſucceſs.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

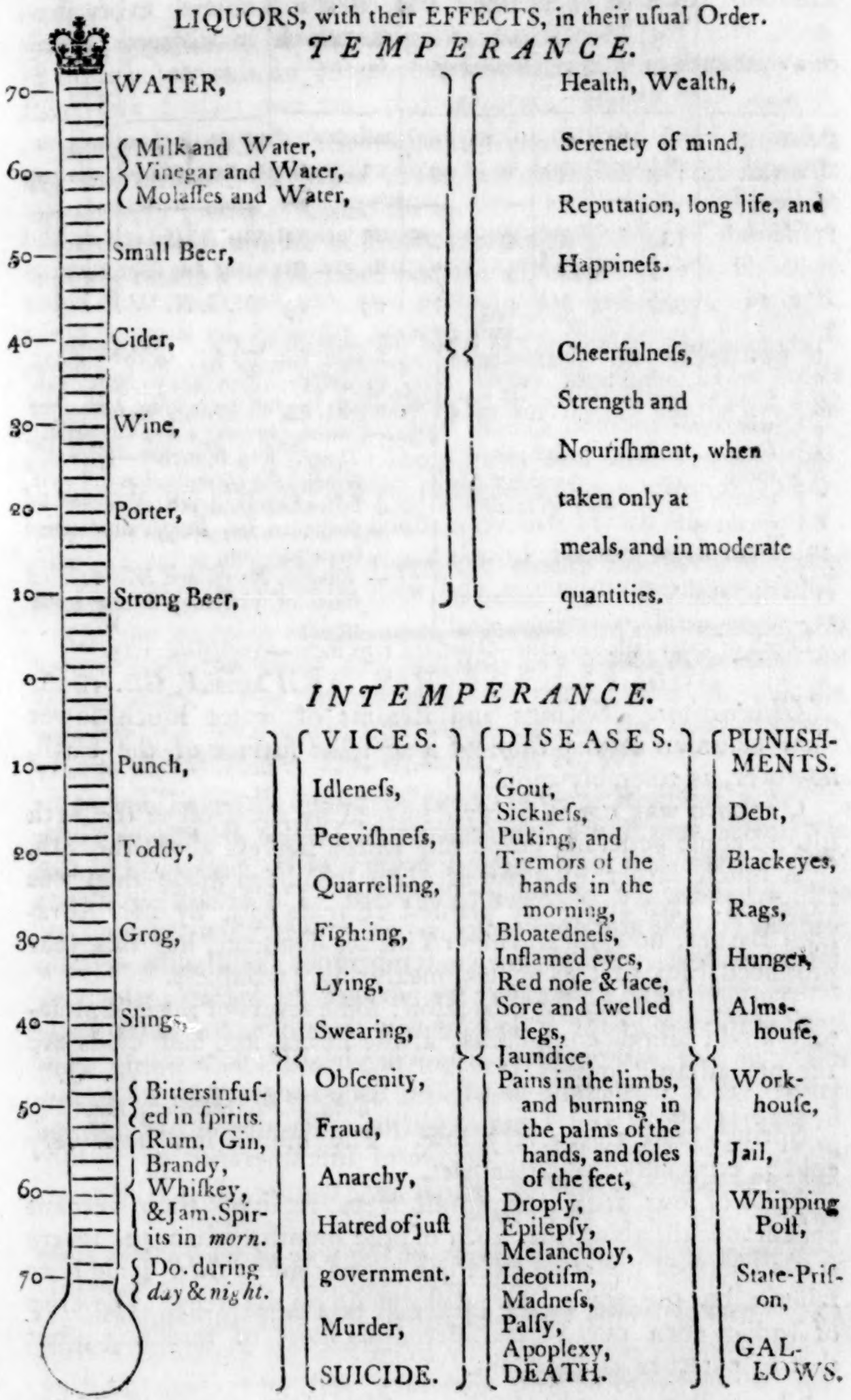
ART. XXV. *Moral and Phyſical Thermometer.*

THE following very curious Moral and Phyſical Thermometer is the invention of the celebrated Doctor RUSH, of Philadelphia, and is a moſt happy ſpecimen of the ingenuity of that enlightened and conſummate Phyſician. The Doctor aſſumes o on this ſcale as the diviſionary point between temperance and intemperance. All above o is temperance; all below o is intemperance; and either way we advance 70 degrees, which degree at the top of the ſcale ranges with water, and is the higheſt degree of temperance, producing health and wealth. The ſame degree at the bottom of the ſcale ranges with rum, gin, brandy, whiſkey, and Jamaica ſpirits, taken during the *day and night*, which is the loweſt degree of intemperance or ſottiſhneſs, the concomitants of which are, *murder, ſuicide, apoplexy*, DEATH, *and the* GALLOWS!

A more particular deſcription of the way in which this ſcale is to be read and underſtood, it is conceived would be unneceſſary. We will only obſerve further, that this little inſtrument, in our opinion, is moſt happily calculated for extenſive uſefulneſs; it ought to become general; and every man quitting home and his family for the grog-ſhop and the bottle, *without* it, ought to be eſteemed equally preſumptuous as the mariner who ſhould put to ſea without a *compaſs*.

A MORAL and PHYSICAL THERMOMETER: Or, *A* SCALE *of the* PROGRESS *of* TEMPERANCE *and* INTEMPERANCE.

LIQUORS, with their EFFECTS, in their uſual Order.



Result of Meteorological and other Observations, for October, 1806; made at DEERFIELD, WARWICK, MASON, PORTSMOUTH, SMITHFIELD, (R. I.)—*and* HARTFORD* (Conn.)

Octo'er, 1806.	*Mean degs. at sun-rise.*	*Mean degs. at 2 P. M.*	*Mean degree of the month.*	*Greatest heat in the month.*		*Least heat in the month.*		*Prevailing winds.*	*Marriages.*	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
Deerfield	38	61 2/3	49 5/6	4th day.	80°	30th day	33°	W'dly 15days			2
Warwick	39 1/5	58 3/4	49	1	74	23	28	N.W. 16 days		1	1
Mason	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	———			
Portsmouth	43 1/2	57 2/3	50 1/2	4	72	23	34	Variable.			
Smithfield	47 1/5	59 1/3	54 3/5	4	74	25	31	N. W. 19 days			1
Hartford	39 2/3	62 2/3	51 1/4	4	79	25	23	W. & N. W.			

WEATHER.

1*st day*, *Smithf.* people beginning to
2 } harveſt Indian corn.
3 fair; briſk
4 winds
5 *Sunday*. and ☽ *laſt quarter.*
6 } ſome
7 clouds
8 on the 4th.
9 foggy on the 9th.
10 }
11 — fair, cloudy. *new moon.*
12 — *Sund.* cloudy, rain at even. 0,55†
13 — rain, fair P. M. 0,10† 1,50‡
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, } fair
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, } weather
30 — Snow, began about ſun-riſe, *Deerf.* fell 6 inches—*Warw.* 8 inch. *Portſ.* melted as faſt as it fell—*Smithf.* depth of water in ſnow, 0,70—*Hartf.* moderate ſnow and rain,
31 — cloudy, *Deerf.* and *Warw.* fair; ſnow of yeſterday moſtly gone to day.

Depth of water fallen in rain—*Warwick* 1,50 inch—*Smithfield* 1,25.

Warwick, Oct. 1806.

Obſervations. Springs and ſtreams of water much lower than common at this time of year: the ſurface of the earth, however, is tolerably moiſt.

Our corn was conſiderably damaged by the froſt of the 11th ult. People generally employed in the harveſt about the 8th.

A much larger quantity of cider has been made than was expected. An apple-tree planted 25 years ago, by Mr. Abraham Barnes, now meaſuring 16 inches diameter, has this year produced him 12,500 apples, meaſuring 50 buſhels.

Tolerably healthy for the ſeaſon: ſome fevers of the inflammatory kind; bilious complaints, alvine fluxes, and bad colds are the prevailing diſorders. W. C.

Smithfield, October, 1806.

Springs and rivers very low. The month has been very cold; eſpecially the latter part.

Moſt of our fruit and foreſt trees retained their verdant appearance till about the 20th of the month, when the ſevere froſts changed the color of their leaves: ſince then ſome have fallen; but the greater part ſtill remain on the trees. The crop of Indian corn may be conſidered as ſhort of middling; but that of potatoes as abundant.

* By the Rev. ABEL FLINT. † Smithfield. ‡ Warwick.

State of health is nearly the ſame as it was laſt month: ſimilar complaints having rather increaſed.

A SMITHFIELD SUBSCRIBER.

Hartford, October 31, 1806.

A very dry month. Springs and ſtreams low. A fine ſeaſon for the farmers to gather in an unuſually abundant harveſt. apples very plenty. Cider cheap.

An unuſual number of froſty mornings.

Very healthy in Hartford and the vicinity.

Deerfield, October 31, 1806.

Remarks. The weather for moſt of the month has been very dry and pleaſant. Springs and rivers are low. The froſts have been frequent and ſevere. Our foreſts are nearly ſtripped of their foilage; and

"Fled is the blaſted verdure of the fields;
"And, ſhrunk into their beds, the flowery race
"Their ſunny robes reſign."

Except a few caſes of fever, the month has been tolerably healthy.

On the morning of the 30th, a ſnow-ſtorm commenced, and before noon the ſnow fell, as near as I could determine, ſix inches deep. For ſeveral days preceding this ſtorm, the weather had been warm and very pleaſant, the wind at ſouth, except the preceding day, when it was N. W.

As you have frequently inſerted, in your Regiſter, accounts of extraordinary vegetable productions, I will preſent you the following, which, if you think worthy, you may infert. Mr. Conſider Dickinſon, of this town, raiſed in his garden a *Red Beet*, which with the leaves weighed $26\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. This beet was the growth of one ſeaſon, was well proportioned and ſolid, and when boiled was tender and palatable; it grew ſome diſtance from other plants, which gave it room to expand to a great ſize; the diameter at top was about 10 inches. The garden in which it grew is rather dry, and is not of the ſtrongeſt ſoil, but is generally well manured. E. HOYT.

To the PATRONS *of the Regiſter, and* CORRESPONDENTS.

THE firſt year of the Regiſter draws near a cloſe. The Editor therefore avails himſelf of this opportunity to declare how much he feels himſelf obliged by the very liberal patronage beſtowed by the public and his friends on this infant publication. It is now *ten* months ſince the firſt No. of the Regiſter was publiſhed. In this ſhort interval of time his ſubſcribers have increaſed, ſo that the number of them at preſent is

conſiderably more than *double* what it at firſt was.* A circumſtance no leſs animating, and on which he, in a great meaſure, reſts his hopes of the future, is, *the very obliging attention, and the increaſing number of his Correſpondents.* He preſumes to think that people will *read*, if gentlemen of experience and obſervation will *communicate.* And he hopes that gentlemen of information, the friends to agriculture, and the lovers of human kind, will be inclined to communicate, and that more generally, as they find people diſpoſed to read, and to profit by their inſtruction. They have here certainly a very favorable opportunity to benefit ſociety by their remarks. The Regiſter now has a circulation in all the New-England States, and paſſes through the hands of a number of thouſands of citizens. It is therefore one of the moſt extenſive and direct channels of information to huſbandmen and families, of any thing in the country. This conſideration it is hoped will have its proper effect on thoſe, who have it in their power to add ſomething to the general ſtock of information on theſe ſubjects, more particularly on that of agriculture.

The trifling expenſe of this publication puts it in the power of almoſt every family to be in the poſſeſſion of it. One dollar a year ſurely is but a ſmall tax on the ſubſcriber. Certainly, it is but *a very little thing* compared with what he may in this way receive in exchange for it—*the experience and the information of thoſe who have gone before him in the broad road of practice and experiment.*

Becauſe that all the ſubjects propoſed in the "Proſpectus" have not yet been taken up in the Regiſter, the expectations of ſome perhaps may have been diſappointed, and by them the Editor may be thought to have come ſhort of his promiſes. But no perſon going into town, with but *one ſingle dollar* in his pocket, can reaſonably expect to procure a general aſſortment of articles on that day. And it would be equally unreaſonable to expect, conſidering the ſmall expenſe, and the limits of this publication, that all the ſubjects propoſed to be diſcuſſed, during the progreſs of the work, ſhould be taken up and illuſtrated the firſt year. Something however, it is hoped, has been offered, which may have been ſeaſonable and uſeful. A ſingle hint or obſervation, diligently purſued, is oftentimes to a man, the ſaving of much expenſe. Should any ſuch, this year, through the medium of the Regiſter, have been thrown abroad, by which the ſubſcriber may or ſhall hereafter be enabled to preſerve the health of one in his family, or ſave the life of a uſeful animal, or increaſe the fertility of a ſingle field,

*It is however to be regarded, that the number of ſubſcribers at the commencement of the publication was much leſs than that propoſed in the Proſpectus of the work.

in either caſe he will have realized many times the worth of his money.

The Editor therefore hopes his ſubſcribers will uniformly accompany him through another year. In the mean time he aſſures them he is and ſhall continue to be diligently occupied in purſuing meaſures to render this publication ſtill more intereſting and uſeful. He is at preſent engaged in forming thoſe connexions, both with private gentlemen and corporate bodies, which ſhall open to him the ſources of a conſtant and a regular ſucceſſion of original communications. To this end a number of the Medical and Agricultural Societies in this ſtate have been addreſſed, and the following reſolutions paſſed.

At a meeting of the KENNEBEC MEDICAL SOCIETY, *held at Auguſta, the 5th day of June*, 1805.—*Doct.* DANIEL ADAMS'S *Communications and Propoſals for publiſhing a* "MEDICAL *and* AGRICULTURAL REGISTER" *being read,*

Voted—That this Society view with approbation an attempt to undertake ſo uſeful a work; and the Compiler may feel aſſured of the beſt wiſhes of this Society for his ſucceſs, in collecting and methodizing the diſcoveries, experiments and improvements of the age, in theſe intereſting ſciences, and whatever ſhare of patronage the infant ſtate of our inſtitution will warrant, ſhall be cheerfully afforded.

Voted,—That the Secretary be directed to tranſmit to Dr. D. Adams a copy of the preceding vote.

Atteſt, MOSES APPLETON, *Secretary.*

At a meeting of the WESTERN SOCIETY OF MIDDLESEX HUSBANDMEN, *in Groton, on the firſt Tueſday of September*, 1805.—*Dr.* DANIEL ADAMS'S *Propoſals for publiſhing a* "MEDICAL *and* AGRICULTURAL REGISTER" *having been read and duly conſidered,*

Voted—That this Society receive with pleaſure the communication made to them by Dr. ADAMS, and highly approve his laudable undertaking to publiſh a work ſo intereſting and improving as that which the *Medical* and *Agricultural Regiſter* promiſes to be. We know of no labor in which an individual or corporate body can be more laudably engaged, than in that of diſſeminating uſeful knowledge, particularly in the important branches of Medicine and Agriculture. We are confident the work is in good hands, and that the publiſher will not fail to gratify the expectations he has raiſed in the public mind. We pledge ourſelves to afford him every aſſiſtance within the power of this Society, not only by our communications to him, but alſo by uſing our individual influence in the towns to which we reſpectively belong, to procure ſubſcribers, and give the moſt liberal patronage to the intended work.

Voted—That the Secretary be directed to favor Dr. D. ADAMS with a copy of the above vote.

EDMUND FOSTER, { *Correſponding Sec. to the Weſtern Society of Middleſex Huſbandmen.*

DEAR SIR,

At a meeting of the DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, *held at Worceſter, on June* 11, 1806, *on reading a letter from you, on the ſubject of the Medical and Agricultural Regiſter, it was*

Voted—That the Society highly approve the object of your publication, and that they will countenance it as far as in their power, and occaſionally make it the vehicle of their communications to the public.

EBENR. H. PHILLIPS, *Correſponding Secretary.*

Dr. DANIEL ADAMS.

Such are the proſpects of patronage and ſupport, which the Editor is allowed to entertain from theſe Societies. Meaſ-

ures are in progreſs with ſome of them for forming a ſtill cloſer connexion ; but time is neceſſary in effecting arrangements of this nature, and the benefits reſulting from them, it muſt be expected cannot be immediately enjoyed.

Further, with a view to create inveſtigation, excite inquiry, and call forth remark, as well as to ſecure a regular ſucceſſion of intereſting communications for this work, ſhould the increaſe of the ſubſcription the year to come equal what it has been the year paſt ; in that caſe, the Editor, by the advice of his friends, will propoſe and publiſh in the Regiſter, yearly, certain queſtions or ſubjects, to be conſidered as *prize-queſtions*, for diſcuſſion or anſwers, within a certain ſpecified time ; theſe queſtions, all of them, having an immediate reference to agriculture, and ſuch as ſhall come within the views and comprehenſion of every farmer ; and to the author of the diſſertation on each ſubject or queſtion, by competent judges, thought moſt deſerving, the Editor will beſtow a *premium*, to be ſpecified and made known at the time the queſtions are propoſed or publiſhed. This, under ſuch an increaſe of patronage, the Editor finds he ſhould be enabled to do. And as there are many towns in which the Regiſter has not yet been introduced, ſuch an increaſe of the ſubſcription would be very natural and eaſy, providing it ſhould find in thoſe towns the ſame active friends and ſupporters it has found in other places.

To conclude. What is moſt ardently wiſhed, (if the expreſſion be admiſſible) is, that this publication may be rendered *a correct map of the Agriculture of theſe New England States*, exhibiting the different improvements and practices as they at preſent exiſt, and as they may, from time to time, occur and take place in different places. To this end, all who have it in their power to contribute are moſt anxiouſly ſolicited.—"When every one contributes ſomething, general improvement progreſſes ; the ſum of knowledge thus accumulated will quickly reſemble thoſe extenſive and fathomleſs waters, which were collected from a variety of ſmall ſtreams."

EDITOR.

Boſton, Nov. 19, 1806.

Note. Several communications have been received, which may be expected in the next Number.

CONDITIONS OF THE REGISTER.

PUBLISHED monthly, the laſt Wedneſday of every month, at *One Dollar* per annum, delivered at the office, payable half yearly, in advance.

CONDUCTED BY DANIEL ADAMS, M. B.

BOSTON:—Printed by MANNING & LORING, at whoſe Bookſtore, No. 8, Cornhill, any orders or communications for the *Regiſter* will be received.